

**SIERRA LEONE**History put on trial  
in elections**SOUTH AFRICA**ANC boss Mantashe  
plans Zuma's victory**AFRICAN UNION**Dlamini-Zuma win marks  
power and policy shiftTHE AFRICA  
REPORT**THE AFRICA REPORT**

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**50**  
THE

Samir Dilou ■ Michel Sidibé ■ Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie ■ Daniel Yohannes

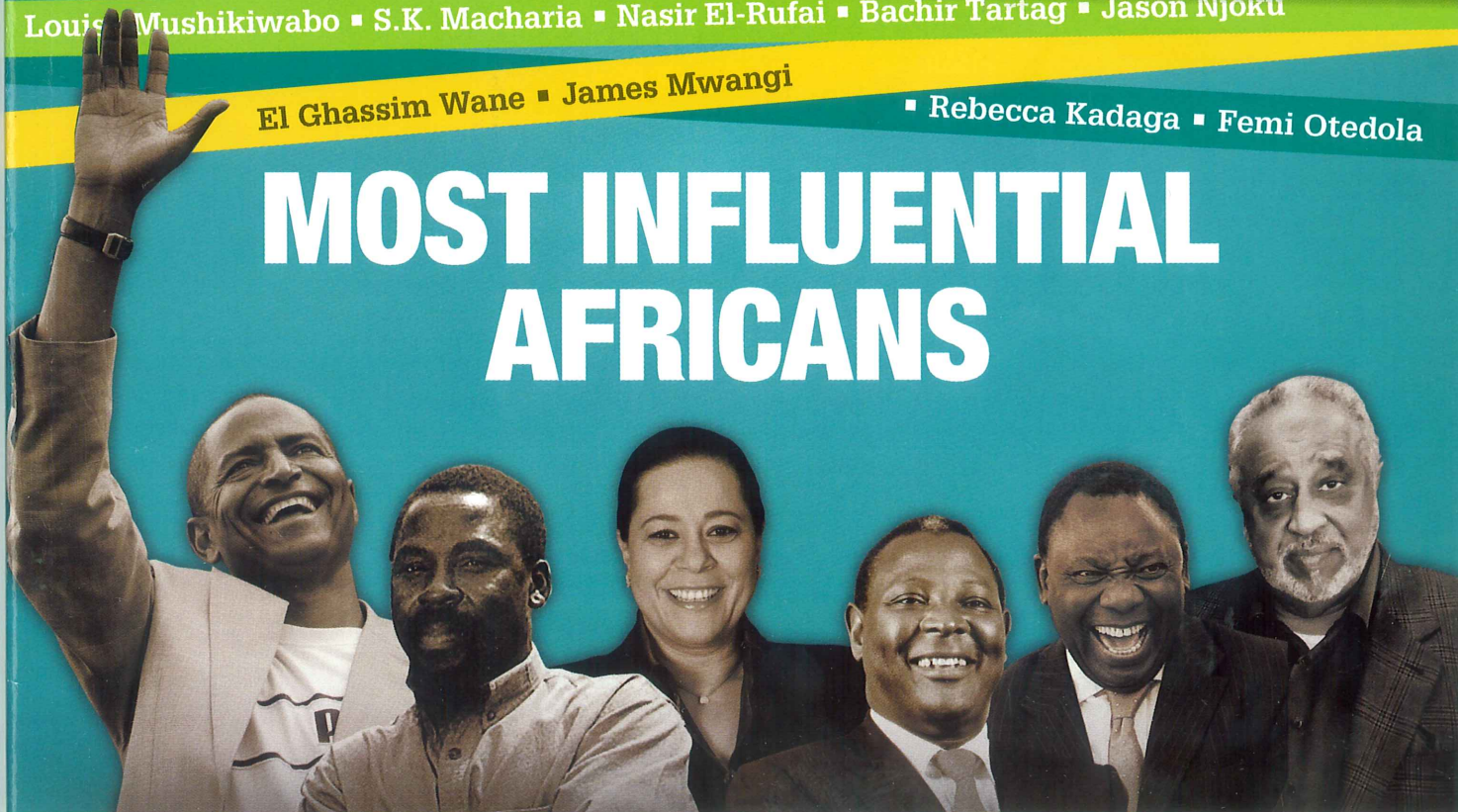
Shan Ramburuth

Zwelinzima Vavi ■ Acha Leke ■ Marc Ona

Louis Mushikiwabo ■ S.K. Macharia ■ Nasir El-Rufai ■ Bachir Tartag ■ Jason Njoku

El Ghassim Wane ■ James Mwangi

■ Rebecca Kadaga ■ Femi Otedola

**MOST INFLUENTIAL  
AFRICANS**

GROUPE JEUNE AFRIQUE

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# THE 50

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## MOST INFLUENTIAL AFRICANS

By **Thano Bhebhe** in Harare **Parselelo Kantai** in Nairobi,  
**Alex Macbeth**, **Billie McTernan**, **Prince Ofori-Atta**, **Crystal Ordeson** in Cape Town **Nicholas Norbrook**, **Patrick Smith**,  
**Zainab Usman**, **Marshall Van Valen**, **Gemma Ware**

**O**ur list of influential people will certainly be disagreed with. Why is this fantastic woman not included? How could this master-of-the-universe have been forgotten? This debate is certainly more important than our own selection, and we encourage you to continue your arguments and propose new candidates on our website, [www.theafricareport.com](http://www.theafricareport.com).

In the meantime, we want to outline two caveats and explain our method. First, we preferred to look at less well-known people: not the usual suspects who appear regularly in the media and stamp the conference circuits. We do however have an 'A-list' of the great and the good. And, for balance, we also have a list of the bad and the ugly, those whose influence is more negative and are under investigation or indictment.

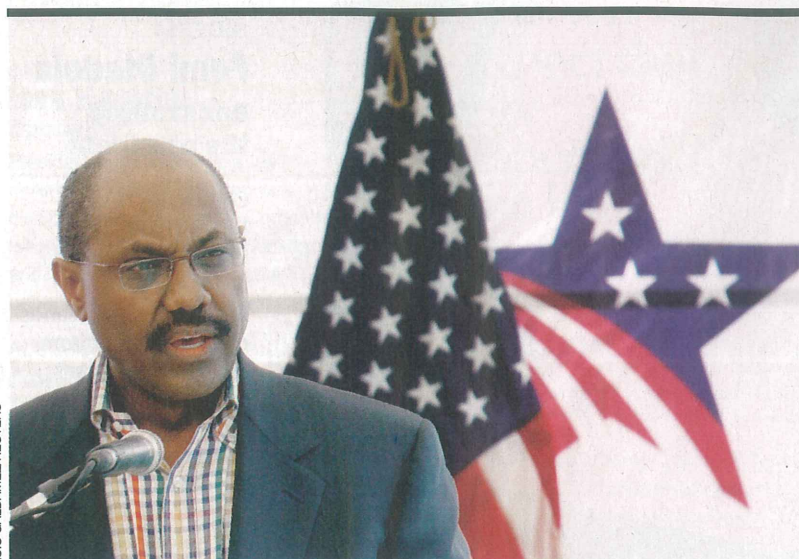
Second, we wanted to present exemplars of trends that we feel have resonance beyond the individual selected. For example, the reach of religion, or the renaissance of Africa's think tanks. There are any number of imams and priests and healers who have a huge influence on their followers – but we have included just one representative. Likewise, Africa's intellectuals and activists, a vital part of the upending of the corrupt establishment in North Africa, continue to make their mark felt. We have space for just one think tank, from Ghana, that continues to publish influential reports on inflated costs in the oil sector, keenly noted and perhaps emulated by Nigerian civil society.

There are also Africans who run institutions that make a real difference to the day-to-day life of their co-citizens, such as the competition commission in South Africa.

To put together the list, we reached out to the lifeblood of this magazine, our correspondents, who in turn reached out to their networks on the ground. We called on partner organisations and publications. The long list stretches into several hundred worthy candidates. Only 50 made the final cut. ●



LUIS GALDAMEZ/REUTERS



ETHIOPIA

## Daniel Yohannes

**An African voice in Washington**

**NOW IN CHARGE** of a huge aid budget that rewards economic and political improvements in developing countries, Yohannes arrived in the US in 1970 and worked his way to the top of the banking profession. As chief executive of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), he is a powerful voice for Africa in Washington DC. By linking aid to good governance, the MCC rewards reforming governments on the continent and across the globe. The corporation is now reflecting on how it got it wrong on Mali, as corruption and an ineffective state apparatus under President Amadou Toumani Touré contributed to the country's current political turmoil.

GHANA

## Prince Kofi Amoabeng

**The 'grey' banker**

THE CEO OF UT Bank has targeted a critical segment of Africa's economic fabric: the 'grey' enterprises that are not properly formal, but which represent a large majority of the job-creating small and medium-sized companies on the continent today. Getting close to his customers, and figuring out mechanisms to manage risk, makes him an inspiration to future generations of African bankers. UT Bank now has assets of 713m cedis, and UT Group has over a thousand employees with eight subsidiaries and a presence in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and Germany.

VINCENT FOURNIER/IA



RWANDA

## Louise Mushikiwabo

**Kigali hosts a successor in the making**

FROM EXILE TO INTERNATIONAL POSTINGS and deep-end diplomacy, Mushikiwabo's rise to eminence in Rwanda's government has tested her political nerves. A one-time resident of Washington DC and a key aide to president Donald Kaberuka at the African Development Bank, Mushikiwabo knows the arena and its competitors. Her role as foreign minister puts her in the frontline to fend off mounting pressure on Rwanda to change its posture in the Democratic Republic of Congo after a damning United Nations investigation. Should Mushikiwabo succeed on the diplomatic front, do not rule out a run for the presidency with President Paul Kagame's blessing.

NIGERIA

## Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

**Taking down the cliché's one by one**

A LEADING LIGHT among young African authors storming the bastions of international literature, Chimamanda Adichie also carries the baton for her mentor Chinua Achebe, in whose house she has lived in eastern Nigeria. Six decades after Achebe broke down publishers' scepticism about African writing with his debut novel *Things Fall Apart*, Adichie's novel on Nigeria's civil war, *Half of a Yellow Sun*, situated African history on the world stage and opened thousands of eyes; millions more will see the forthcoming film. Describing herself as a "happy black African feminist", Adichie takes on colonialism, racism and sexism with humour and deadly accuracy. She is truly Achebe's heir and an inspiration to many.



BALTEL/SIPA